CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-39 and 44-54.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1-39 and 44-54

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: None.

Amended claims: 1-11, 13-25, 28-39, 45, and 48-53

New claims: None

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium encoded with executable instructions that, when executed, direct a server computer to perform a method for updating a plurality of client computer software, the method comprising:

assigning, by the server computer, a level of service to each client computer of a plurality of client computers the server computer is assigned to manage, the level of service for a particular client computer comprising parameters regulating the application of updates to the particular client computer;

scheduling, by the server computer, performance of one or more software updates to ~~a~~ the particular client computer ~~from among the plurality of client~~

~~computers~~ according to the level of service assigned to the particular client computer; and

initiating, by the server computer, execution of the software updates to the particular client computer, according to the scheduling ~~schedule~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

configuring on the particular client computer, by the server computer, a postponement icon that, when displayed by the particular client computer and selected by a user of the particular client computer, causes the execution of the software updates to be postponed ~~within~~ for execution within a defined window of time (grace period) ~~a grace period~~, wherein the grace period is followed by an enforcement period within which selection of the postponement icon is prohibited so that execution of the software updates may not be further postponed.

3. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 2, wherein assigning the level of service to each client computer comprises:

establishing the grace period and the enforcement ~~period; and~~period,

wherein by shortening the grace period a higher level of service results due to more rapid application of the software updates.

4. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

configuring on a desktop of the particular client computer, by the server computer, an execution icon that, when displayed by the particular client computer and selected by a user, causes the execution of the software updates to be initiated immediately.

5. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 4, wherein configuring the execution icon comprises:

enabling the particular client computer to display a recurring reminder ~~about installing~~ to install the software updates during the grace period; and

enabling the particular client computer to display the execution icon.

6. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 5, wherein ~~the reminder comprises~~:

the recurring reminder comprises information on grace and enforcement periods associated with the software updates scheduled for the particular client computer;

~~wherein~~ the grace period is a period during which the execution of the software updates is allowed to be postponed;

~~wherein~~ the grace period is configurable by a server administrator; and

~~wherein~~ the enforcement period is a period, configured by the server administrator to follow the grace period, during which execution of the software updates is not allowed to be postponed.

7. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 5, wherein enabling the particular client computer to display the execution icon comprises:

enabling an update start time to be modified by a user of the particular client computer; and

enabling a client computer reboot time to be modified by a user of the particular client computer, such that an update and a reboot are scheduled at different times.

8. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises deploying ~~annoyance~~ recurring reminders to the particular client computer after execution of an update package is completed and reboot has been postponed, ~~urging~~ reminding a user of the particular client computer to reboot to fully complete the update process.

9. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the server computer causing the particular client-computer to automatically perform the software updates following the termination of a grace period.

10. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises enabling the particular client computer to delay the performance until after conclusion of a user-initiated postponement within a grace period.

11. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the scheduling comprises configuring a change time-window for each client computer, wherein the change time-window defines a period of time within which a client computers will not be restricted from performing the updates.

12. (Previously Presented) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein assigning the level of service comprises configuring a duration of the change time-window, wherein a longer duration implies a higher level of service and a shorter duration implies a lower level of service.

13. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the scheduling further comprises:

defining, by the server, failsafe timeout periods for each of the software updates; and

adjusting, by the server computer, for each of the client computers, the failsafe timeout periods according to performance specifications of each individual client computer ~~performance~~, wherein longer failsafe timeout periods are assigned where the individual client computer performance is slower.

14. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:

applying, by the server computer, updates to each client computer during the change time-window scheduled for each client computer; and

monitoring ~~a~~ each failsafe timeout for each update applied to each client computer.

15. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises identifying, by the server computer, updates to a client computer for which there was insufficient time to complete the update within the change time-window, and re-scheduling the update for installation on the client computer within a second change time-window.

16. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises, when time remaining within the change time-window of a client computer is less than a failsafe timeout for any remaining software updates scheduled for installation on the client computer during the time-change window, suspending application of the remaining software updates scheduled to for installation on the client computer.

17. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises the server computer associating the client computers under the server computer's management into groups, wherein each group is assigned a change time-window, and the client computers associated with a particular group inherit the change time-window assigned to the particular group.

18. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

grouping a plurality of the software updates into a package comprising a plurality of individual and distinct software updates configured for initialization with a single execution command; and

configuring the package for differential enforcement whereby each of the plurality of client computers receive the same package but different individual ones of the plurality of client computers ~~receive~~ install different software updates from within the package.

19. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises the server computer programmatically obtaining the plurality of software updates from a trusted source of update content.

20. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises configuring the package for consumption by a Microsoft System Management Server (SMS) computer ~~SMS consumption~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein ~~assigning the level of service comprises providing~~ different rules of enforcement for each client computer service level are encoded within the package to result in ~~different~~ differential application of the software updates within the package to different client computers based upon the service level assigned to each client computer.

22. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising, ~~wherein assigning the level of service comprises~~ partitioning the package of software updates to separate trusted updates from un-trusted updates.

23. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 22 further comprising, ~~wherein assigning the level of service further comprises~~ merging, by the server computer, ~~the~~ one or more un-trusted software updates with the trusted software updates based on performance of the one or more un-trusted updates in a test environment.

24. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the partitioning is expressed in XML configured to inform different individual client computers ~~clients~~ of updates suitable for their consumption.

25. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein assigning the level of service to each of the plurality of client computers comprises: incorporating an authorization list of approved updates into a template, the template based upon an image of a client system with the approved updates installed. ~~based on a standard image~~.

26. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the template is written into an XML document.

27. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the XML document is consumed and deployed as a mirror of a desired state for software updates.

28. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the XML document is consumed and deployed by Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) ~~SMS~~.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for performing software updates on a client computer, the method comprising:

receiving, by the client computer, from a server computer, a software update to be executed on the client computer;

displaying, by the client computer, an icon configured to allow a client computer user a choice between displaying recurring software update reminders and immediate initiation of installation of the software update by the client ~~computer;~~ computer, wherein the recurring software reminders include information on a grace period ~~periods~~ within which installation of the software

update may be postponed and information on the onset of an enforcement period ~~periods~~ after which installation of the software update may not be postponed; and

providing, by the client computer, a user interface to allow user-selection of a time for the client computer to perform the installation of the software update within the server-assigned grace period and to allow user-selection of a time for the client computer to initiate a reboot, separate from the installation and also within the server-assigned grace period, wherein the ~~time~~ times selected for the grace period and enforcement period ~~is~~ are based in part on a level of service assigned to the client computer by the server computer.

30. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a client computer to execute a method for updating software on the client computer, the method comprising:

displaying, by the client computer, ~~an~~ a desktop icon that represents a choice between displaying recurring software update reminders and initiating immediate installation of software ~~updates;~~updates, wherein the recurring software update reminders include information on a grace period ~~periods~~ within which installation of the software updates by the client computer may be postponed and information on the onset of an enforcement period ~~periods~~ after

which installation of the software updates by the client computer may not be postponed; and

providing, by the client computer, a user interface to allow user-selection of a time within the grace period for the client computer to perform the installation of the software updates and to allow user-selection of a time within the grace period and distinct from the time for the client computer to perform the installation, for the client computer to initiate a reboot.

31. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises;

providing at repeated intervals, by the ~~a~~ client computer, a user interface ~~at repeated intervals~~ to facilitate the reboot of the client computer, where the software updates have been installed, the installation package has completed execution, and no reboot has been performed.

32. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises;

setting the grace period ~~periods~~ and the enforcement period ~~periods~~ to ~~control~~ facilitate determining a level of service provided to the client computer.

33. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the method further ~~comprises;~~ comprises periodically displaying, by the client computer, information about software updates that are available and have not yet been performed on the client computer.

34. (Currently Amended) A method executed by a server computer for performing software updates on a plurality of client computers associated with the server computer, the method comprising:

associating individual ones of the plurality of client computers into groups;

establishing a change time-window for each of the groups; and

initiating, by the server computer, software updates to each client computer of a particular group, wherein the initiating is performed ~~the client computers~~ within the change time-window established for the particular group ~~for each group of client computers~~;

monitoring ~~by~~, by the server computer ~~a~~, a failsafe timeout for each update on each client computer of the particular group.

35. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium encoded with executable instructions that, when executed, direct a server computer to perform a method for updating client computer software on a plurality of client computers, the method comprising:

associating individual ones of the plurality of client computers into groups;

establishing, for each of the groups, a particular change time-window ~~for each of the groups~~; and

initiating, by the server computer, software updates to each of the client computers associated with a particular one of the groups, wherein the initiating is performed within the particular change time-window established for the particular one of the groups~~for each group of client computers~~;

monitoring ~~by~~, by the server computer ~~a~~, a failsafe timeout for each update on each client computer associated with the particular one of the groups.

36. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, the method further comprising:

installing each ~~software update~~of a plurality of software updates on each client computer associated with the particular one of the groups; and

setting the failsafe timeout for each of the plurality of software updates on each client computer associated with the particular one of the groups with reference to ~~the~~ an anticipated duration of installation of each of the plurality of software updates on each client computer associated with the particular one of the groups.

37. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, the method further comprising:

determining, by the server computer, if the failsafe timeout for each software update on a particular client computer of the client computers associated with the particular one of the groups is greater than time remaining within the change time-window of the particular client computer, and if so, suspending installation of the software update on the particular client computer.

38. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, the method further comprising: identifying, by the server computer, software updates for installation in a second change time-window, wherein the software updates for installation in the second change time-window ~~which~~ were scheduled for installation in the particular change time-window, but were not ~~not~~ installed in the particular change time-window.

39. (Currently Amended) A method executed by a server computer for performing software updates to a plurality of client computers, the method comprising:

grouping a plurality of software updates into a package comprising the plurality of software updates, the package being independently executable;

configuring the package for differential enforcement, wherein the plurality of client computers each receive the same package, but different individual client computers are assigned ~~by the server~~, by the server, different periods of time within which a software update will be initiated; and

configuring the package for ~~SMS~~ consumption by a Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) system.

40-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) A method executed by a server system for performing client computer software updates, the method comprising:

forming a package with a plurality of software updates;

partitioning the package to divide trusted updates from un-trusted updates;

distributing the package to a plurality of client computers, such that appropriate software updates are installed on each of the plurality of clients, wherein the un-trusted software updates are installed only on client comptuers configured by the server to install un-trusted software updates.

45. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium encoded with executable instructions that, when executed, direct a server computer to perform a method for updating client computer software on a plurality of client computers, the method comprising:

forming a package comprising ~~with~~ a plurality of software updates;

within the package, partitioning the plurality of software updates ~~package~~ to distinguish ~~divide~~ trusted updates from un-trusted updates;

distributing the package to the ~~a~~ plurality of client computers such that when the package is executed by a particular client computer, only appropriate software updates are installed ~~on each of the plurality of client comptuerscomputers~~, wherein the un-trusted software updates are installed only on clients configured, by the server, to install un-trusted software updates.

46. (Previously Presented) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, the method further comprising:

merging un-trusted software updates together with the trusted software updates in response to performance of the un-trusted software updates on clients having un-trusted software updates installed.

47. (Previously Presented) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, the method further comprising expressing the partitioning of the package with XML.

48. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, the method further comprising:

embedding within the package, instructions that when executed by a particular ~~the~~ client computer, facilitate ~~the~~ expressing to the particular client computer, ~~computers~~ which software updates within the package are suitable for ~~their~~ consumption by the particular client computer.

49. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a server computer for performing software updates, the method comprising:

using a previously updated client computer as a reference ~~client computer~~ to generate a template of approved updates;

deploying the template to a plurality of client computers; and

initiating software updates to the plurality of client computers according to the template.

50. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium encoded with executable instructions that, when executed, direct a server computer to perform a method for updating client computer software, the method comprising:

using a previously updated client computer as a reference client computer to generate a template of approved updates;

deploying the template of approved updates to a plurality of client computers; and

intitiating software updates to the plurality of client computers according to the template of approved updates.

51. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 50, the method further comprising:

incorporating the template of approved updates into an XML file.

52. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 50, the method further comprising: deploying the template of approved updates with instructions for configuring the template of approved updates for ~~SMS~~ consumption and deployment by a Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) system.

53. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 50, the method further comprising:

using the template of approved updates to identify a subset of software update files from a plurality of software update files.

54. (Previously Presented) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, instruct the processor to perform a method for performing software updates, the ~~processor-executable instructions~~ method comprising ~~instructions for~~:

receiving a plurality of software updates from a trusted website;

~~configuring the package with content from a trusted website;~~

grouping a subset of the plurality of software updates into a package;

configuring the package for ~~SMS~~ consumption by a Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) system;

partitioning the package to divide trusted ones of the software updates from un-trusted ones of the software updates;

utilizing SMS to distribute ~~distributing~~ the package ~~by utilizing SMS~~ to a plurality of client-computers;

associating the plurality of client-computers into groups;

establishing a change time-window for each of the groups;

expressing to each particular one of the plurality of client-computers, ~~computers~~ which software updates in the package are suitable and trusted for consumption by the particular client-computer;

installing updates on each of the plurality of clients within the change time-window established for the group the client is a member of;

installing the un-trusted software updates ~~are installed~~ only on client-computers configured to install un-trusted software updates;

setting a failsafe timeout for each installation on each client computer with reference to ~~the~~ an anticipated duration of installation of each software update on each client computer;

monitoring the ~~a~~ failsafe timeout for each software update on each particular client computer;

determining if the failsafe timeout for each software update on a particular client computer is greater than time remaining within the change time-window for update installation on the particular client computer, and if so, ~~for~~ suspending installation of the software update on the particular client computer.